

GAME 2: Notre Dame 13, Marian Catholic 10

Kickoff: 7:30 p.m. Friday at Spartan Stadium.

Where: Joe Orr Road at Ashland Avenue, Chicago Heights.

2008 records: Notre Dame 2-0; Marian Catholic 0-2.

Streaks: Dons- 2 wins; Spartans- 4 losses.

Week 2: Notre Dame 35, Westosha (Wis.) Central 0; Bloom 13, Marian Catholic 7.

Week 4: St. Patrick at Notre Dame (7:30 p.m. Fri.); Marian at St. Joseph (1:30 p.m. Sat.)

Last meeting: Marian Catholic 18, Notre Dame 10 (2005).

The series: The Spartans own an overall series command of 8-5, but neither team has won two consecutive regular-season meetings since Marian did so in 2000 and 2001.

Notes: The East Suburban Catholic Conference completed the nonconference portion of its schedule with an overall mark of 14-6... Marian has dropped four straight games in ESCC openers with the last win coming over Notre Dame in 2003 by a 20-19 score...

Notre Dame is one of seven ESCC teams that remain unbeaten... the Spartans are hoping to avoid their first 0-3 start since 2005... Friday's game will be the first varsity football contest played on Marian's new *FieldTurf* in Spartan Stadium.

September 12	1	2	3	4	Total
NOTRE DAME DONS	7	0	0	6	-13
at MARIAN SPARTANS	0	3	7	0	-10



Marian's Arthur Riley prepares to explode on the snap Friday during the host Spartans' ESCC opener vs. Notre Dame.

Marian thwarted by Notre Dame in ESCC home opener

The fate of Friday's East Suburban Catholic Conference opener in Chicago Heights came down to a tale of three punts.

Or, in this case, two non-punts.

After host Marian Catholic took advantage of great field position on a fumbled punt snap for its first lead of the season at 10-7, Notre Dame used a partially blocked punt to set up the winning score and the Spartans later saw their own fumbled punt snap virtually seal their fate in a 13-10 Notre Dame victory.

Much like the first two contests for 0-3 Marian, the Spartans had three fourth-quarter possessions to drive for a winning score. And despite outgaining their second opponent in three games, field possession was never Marian's friend in the final quarter. Drives ended with the fumbled punt snap, a fumble turnover and finally on downs at the Spartans' own 12.

After two straight games of gaining 190-plus yards on the ground, an early injury, slippery turf and Notre Dame's defense limited Marian to 65 rushing yards on 38 attempts. And a first-quarter injury to tailback Joe Hess took out Marian's third major backfield component since the start of the season. The Spartans also got three offensive linemen banged up on Friday.

Meanwhile, Spartan junior quarterback Tommy Doane showed signs of coming of age. He

connected on 10 of 25 attempts for 137 yards.

Doane's 1-yard touchdown plunge midway through the third quarter maintained Marian's blueprint of coming out strong in the third quarter after a halftime deficit.

Trailing 7-3 at the intermission, the Spartans gained great field position when a fumbled punt snap set them up at the Notre Dame 34-yard line. Staying on the ground other than a 13-yard toss to tight end Josh Forney, Doane and Jesse Steward (15 carries, 38 yards) shared carries to get Marian to the 1, where Doane scored the first home touchdown on Spartan Stadium's new *FieldTurf* on a sneak.

Dan Roque, who had booted a 29-yard field goal in the opening half, added the conversion for a 10-7 Marian lead with 6:50 remaining in the third quarter.

That's when the fateful punting game took over.

First, Notre Dame (3-0) used a 41-yard boot to pin in the Spartans at their 10. Unable to gain a first down, Marian had a punt partially blocked to give the Dons' possession 24 yards from the Marian end zone.

Five plays later, Notre Dame answered Marian's 1-yard touchdown sneak with one of its own from quarterback Eric Hennessey. Spartan Mac Stevenson got a hand on the conversion kick attempt to keep the margin at three, at 13-10, with 10:40 to play.

Marian's next possession was its last with decent field position to start. An 11-yard jaunt from Joey Walker (10 carries, 40 yards) gave Marian a first down, then Walker dashed 6 yards into Notre Dame territory. But a penalty erased a would-be first down and Marian eventually yielded possession on its own 36 on the poor punt snap.

The Spartans' next shot began 99 yards away from the Don end zone. But first-down passes from Doane to Austin Guaccio (five catches, 73 yards) got Marian out to its 40. The Spartans had just two penalties all night, but the second one left the home team with a third-and-long with the lone turnover of the night to follow on a fumble.

Marian's final gasp began at its own 14, but the Spartans failed to gain a first down.

Spurred by a strong effort up front from Bryan Golubski, Stevenson, Josh Mayers and Forney, along with linebacker Joe Swanson (interception), Nolan Berens and Nate Coburn, Marian held a third straight foe below 100 yards rushing (80 on Friday).

The Spartans will seek their first victory on Saturday when they visit 2-3 St. Joseph, a 35-0 loser to Benet Academy on Friday.

Sophomores: The young Spartans improved to 3-0 in their ESCC opener on Friday with a 42-14 decision over the Dons.

CATEGORY	Notre Dame	Marian Catholic
First downs	7	11
Rush attempts / yards	31-80	38-65
Passing yards	93	137
Pass completions	8	10
Pass attempts	16	26
Had intercepted	1	0
Fumbles / lost	1 / 0	3 / 1
Penalty yards	7-50	2-10
Next	ST. PATRICK	at St. Joseph

SCORING

ND- Tim Hirsch 17-yard pass from Eric Hennessey (John Jennings kick), 3:13 - 1

MC- Dan Roque 29-yard field goal, 3:43 second.

MC- Tommy Doane 1-yard run (Roque kick), 6:50 third.

ND- Hennessey 1-yard run (kick blocked), 10:40 fourth.

Rushing: ND- Julian Burgos 22-57, Tom Treslo 3-13, Hennessey 5-8 (TD), Pat Lazzara 1-2. MC- Joey Walker 10-40, Jesse Steward 15-38, Joe Hess 3-18, Joe Swanson 1-(minus 12), Doane 9-(minus 19).

Passing: ND- Hennessey 8 of 16, 93 yards, 1 TD, 1 INT. MC- Doane 10 of 25, 137 yards, 0 TD, 0 INT; Walker 0 of 1, 0 yards..

Receiving: ND- A.J. Fedoruk 3-52, Joe Gutierrez 1-22, Hirsch 1-17 (TD), Burgos 1-4, Treslo 2-(minus 2). MC- Austin Guaccio 5-73, Armando Lopez 2-29, Josh Forney 1-13, Arthur Riley 1-10, Walker 1-12.

Interceptions: Joe Swanson (MC).

